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INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Peru

DATE DISTR. 9 JUN 50

SUBJECT Support for Liga Democratica Nacional from
Editor of Mundo Grafico

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SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO. 25X1X

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1. Eugenio Batista, Formerly a militant Aprista, has now become associated with the activities of the Liga Democratica Nacional, Peruvian political party which has been receiving covert Communist support. Batista is the editor and publisher of a political weekly entitled Mundo Grafico, which has recently been publishing bitterly anti-American articles following the Communist line of stressing the threat of United States imperialism to Peru's political and economic independence.
2. Batista has had a very stormy political career as an Aprista, having been deported twice to Chile and having served long prison terms as a result of his anti-government activities and writings during the regimes of Sanchez Cerro and Benavides. Batista was strongly pro-Aprista until AFRA leadership refused to support his candidacy for a congressional seat. When President Bustamante broke with the AFRA, Batista adopted a decided anti-AFRA line in his writings, similar to that followed by Tudocio Ravines' Vanguardia, in hope of incurring Bustamante's favor. Batista did not succeed and then turned against Bustamante.
3. Batista's opportunism is illustrated by his relations with President Odría. Shortly after the Arequipa revolution of October 1948, Batista offered the military Junta and Odría the services of his paper for propaganda purposes, in an attempt to ingratiate himself with the new political crowd. On several occasions, Batista tried to interview Odría and to establish some contact with the Junta, but Odría, knowing Batista's previous political record, refused to have anything to do with him. Batista thereupon began a series of mild anti-junta attacks in Mundo Grafico, and has been seeking some political group to which he might attach himself. He decided to back the Liga, and for the past month or two has strongly supported the Liga in his paper.
4. Although Communist elements in the Liga do not trust Batista, they have accepted him on the condition that he stress an anti-United States line in his paper. Most Liga leaders of whatever political bias, are skeptical of Batista and his intentions.

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